

# The Second Coming

## ECHO PANTOMIME ON MATTHEW 25:31-46

### WORDS

My name is Jesus, the Son of Man.

I will come again

as king.

All the angels will be with me and I will sit on the royal throne; the great trumpet will sound.

And the people of all nations will be gathered before me.

I will divide them into two groups.

The righteous at my right,  
and the others at my left.

No one knows  
when that day and hour will come.

The coming of Jesus  
will be like in the time  
of Noah.

In the days before the flood  
people ate and drank.

### ACTIONS

*Stand straight, point thumb to chest.*

*Walk in place.*

*Move hands over head and outline a crown.*

*Fold hands in prayer, squat down, then up again, make motions with hands cupping mouth.*

*Look from side to side with hands outstretched.*

*Show a chopping motion.*

*Thumbs up.*

*Thumbs down.*

*Point one finger up and shake head.*

*Arms out to the side for sunrise and sunset.*

*Walk in place.*

*Point arms like hands of clock.*

*Outline an ark.*

*Wave arms and fingers for rain.*

*Move hands towards mouth, motion eating and drinking.*



Men and women married.  
To the very day Noah went into the Ark  
they did not realize what was  
happening  
until the flood came and swept them all  
away.  
So it will be  
when the Son of Man comes again.  
Two men  
will be working in a field.  
One will be taken away,  
the other will be left behind.  
Two women  
will be at a mill grinding meal.  
One will be taken away  
the other will be left behind.  
Watch out,  
  
because you  
do not know  
what day your Lord will come.  
You  
must always be ready  
because the Son of Man  
will come  
at an hour  
when you are not expecting him.

*Put ring on finger.*  
*Climb steps.*  
*Shrug shoulders.*  
*Wave arms and fingers for rain, motion  
with arms throwing something.*  
*Point one finger up.*  
*Walk in place.*  
*Two fingers.*  
*Digging motion.*  
*Look over your shoulder.*  
*Keep digging.*  
*Two fingers.*  
*Motion with hands grinding.*  
*Look over your shoulder.*  
*Keep grinding.*  
*With fingers make two circles around  
eyes for glasses.*  
*Point finger at class.*  
*Wave finger back and forth.*  
*Walk in place.*  
*Point finger at class.*  
*Brush off clothes.*  
*Outline crown over head.*  
*Walk in place.*  
*Look at wristwatch.*  
*Hand over mouth.*

*(Taken from Matt. 24:29-31; 24:36-44; 25:31-33)*

*QUESTION: What important message does this pantomime offer you?*



same with each dove. Use a heavy string tied to the center of the stick for hanging the mobile.(20 min.)

7. *Homework:* Parent/pupil worksheet: "The Fruits of the Spirit"; "The Holy Spirit—The Giver of Life."

Questions to Think About: "The Holy Spirit—A Symbol of Power."

## Session 4—The Second Coming

### Key Concepts

1. The Second Coming of Jesus is called the Parousia.
2. We should prepare ourselves for the great Day of the Lord when Jesus will come, not as savior to humanity, but as judge.

### Objectives

- Students will
1. Perform an echo pantomime on the Judgment Day.
  2. Tell at least three ways we can prepare ourselves for the Parousia.
  3. Read the Parable of the Talents and discuss the wise and unwise use of God-given talents.

### Background for Teacher

The birth of Jesus is the pivotal point in the whole of the history of salvation. It is the "great beginning." Then Jesus came and died for us and God said, "This is my Son." God brought about our salvation through Jesus. But Jesus has not left the world. He lives in us through the sacraments. God continues to bring about our salvation today and every day until the end of time. Christ will continue to live in his Church until the great day of the Parousia when he will draw all men into himself. On this day Christ will come to bring us to his Father. He will choose from the world the righteous, for they truly prepared themselves every day of their lives to one day be with the Father in heaven. It is the act of "preparation" that concerns this lesson. We hope to teach the children that we must prepare ourselves every day of our lives, because we do not know the day or hour of the Second Coming of Jesus.

### Materials Needed

- Bibles
- Candles

### Procedure

1. Review parent/pupil worksheet, "The Fruits of the Spirit" (5 min.)
2. *Worship Service*—Suggested Bible reading: Revelation 1:6-8.

Impromptu prayer concerning the Second Coming of Jesus (To be read by you or a student).

"A long time ago God promised the world that he would send a savior to free man from sin and give him eternal life in heaven. All the people began to prepare themselves for the coming of the Messiah. Families began to fade from the face of the earth, but still the people waited for the coming of the Lord. God knew it would be difficult for his people to wait and still remain faithful to him. So he sent many helpers: the apostles, the prophets, and the saints who helped to pave the way for the coming of the Lord and prepare God's people to receive him. And Jesus, the Son of God conceived by the Holy Spirit, was born as savior to the world for our salvation. The world again grew evil. God promised the second coming of the Lord, but this time, to judge us. Today, let us prepare ourselves for the second coming of God. Dear Lord, help us to humble ourselves, and love our neighbor, and see goodness in everyone we meet, so that we might prepare ourselves to meet you on the Judgment Day. Amen."

(7 min.)

### 3. Discussion

a. What do you think of when you hear the phrase, "The Coming of Jesus?" (Some students might respond with Christmas, the birth of Christ, the Judgment Day.)

b. Jesus comes to us in three ways: history, mystery, majesty. How did Jesus come in history? (Jesus came to us in history when he was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary and became man so he could free man from sin.)

How does Jesus come to us in mystery? (Jesus is present in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist and comes to each of us who receives him.)

When will Jesus come in majesty? (On Judgment Day, Jesus will come on his throne as King to judge all men.)

(3 min.)

4. Today's lesson will focus upon the Parousia, or the second coming of Jesus. Read Matthew 24:1-28 together and discuss.

(10 min.)

5. Have students open to the "Echo Pantomime" on page 160, based on a paraphrasing of Matt. 25:31-46. (An echo pantomime involves two people. One person says the words, and the other is his echo, and performs the actions.) Ask for volunteers—one student to read the words, the other for the action.

(8 min.)

### 6. Discussion

The pantomime we just witnessed leaves us with one very important thought about when the Judgment Day will be and what we should be doing now. Who can tell me what this is?

At the very end of the pantomime, we are told, "Watch out, because you do not know what day your Lord will come. You must always *be ready* because



the Son of Man will come at an hour when you are not expecting him.”

What does it mean to say: “You must always be ready because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you are not expecting him?”

It means basically that every day of our lives we must “prepare” ourselves spiritually for the day we will meet our Lord face to face. The day of the Lord may not come in our lifetime, but that does not mean we should not prepare ourselves. How can we prepare ourselves now?

Have the class respond to the question. They might say: By receiving the sacraments, especially Holy Communion where Christ’s presence is within us in the form of his body and blood. We can pray regularly to Jesus to give us strength to combat our human weaknesses which lead us to sin; we can follow the commandments of God. etc. Have the class read Matt. 25:34-40, for the answer:

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited me in; naked and you clothed me; I was sick, and you visited me; I was in prison, and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry, and fed you; or thirsty, and gave you drink? And when did we see you a stranger, and invited you in; or naked, and clothed you? And when did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of mine, even the least of them, you did it to me.’”

It is so easy to hear the words of God, yet so difficult for us to actually follow them. How easy it would be to buy a turkey at Thanksgiving and give it to a needy family in our parish; how easy to go through all our unused toys and offer them to a needy family at Christmas; how many of us have clothing stored in our attics that we never use; do we remember the sick in our parish or families, pick up the telephone and call them, write them a get-well note, or visit with them? These are labors of love and the greatest commandment of God is based on *Love*.

Listen to this short paragraph and think of the Bible excerpt we just read:

“I was hungry and you formed a humanities club and discussed my hunger. Thank you. I was in prison and you crept off quietly and prayed for my release. I was naked and in your mind you debated the morality of my appearance. I was sick and you knelt and thanked God for your health. I was lonely and you left me alone to pray for me. You seem so holy . . . so close to God . . . but I’m still very hungry and lonely and cold. So where have your prayers gone?”

What does it profit a man to leaf through his book of prayers when the rest of the world is crying for his help?” —*Bob Rowland*

Do you find yourself responding to people in need with only words of comfort because you don’t have the means to help them? Have you often thought how wonderful it would be to really do something meaningful for people with special or emergency needs? As in the pantomime we witnessed this morning, there was one person saying “words” but his echo was doing the “action.” Jesus tells us to prepare ourselves for the second coming by “doing,” by “actions.” Going to church and praying for results is not enough. We must truly follow in the footsteps of Jesus and be a “doer” or a “worker” and then we will be one of the righteous. (10 min.)

7. Some of you might be saying to yourselves that right now in your life you cannot be a “worker” of Christ because your mother would not be too happy if you gave away the Thanksgiving turkey to another family or the clothes in the attic to Good Will or the Salvation Army. Or you might say, how will I ever get to visit the sick if I don’t drive?

Each one of us is unique in his own way. God has given us a “talent” or special ability that we can use wisely. God asks us to use this “talent” to the fullest every chance we get. (2 min.)

8. *Activity:* A dramatic game using “The Parable of the Talents.” *Purpose:* To help students recognize a special talent or ability God has given them, and to distinguish between its wise and unwise use.

#### *Directions*

a. Have the class read “The Parable of the Talents” in Matthew 25:14-30.

b. It is important for the class to have a basic understanding of the parable before the game. Try to get two aspects of the parable across to the class. In the parable there are two important aspects to the teaching of Jesus about our preparation for the day of Judgment:

- We all have talents and special abilities which are gifts from God. We must use them in the best way possible. Some have more talents than others, but we all have at least one; and if we bury it, we will have to answer to God for our failure to use it wisely on the day of Judgment.

- We all have the chance to use our talents and we are accountable for whether we choose to use them wisely or not. If we are lazy and miss opportunities or make excuses for wrong actions, we will have fewer chances to use them correctly; but if we choose to use them wisely, God will increase our opportunities. We should use each chance wisely, because we do not know if we will have any more chances—the Day of Judgment can come when we least expect it.

c. Divide the class into small groups. Have each



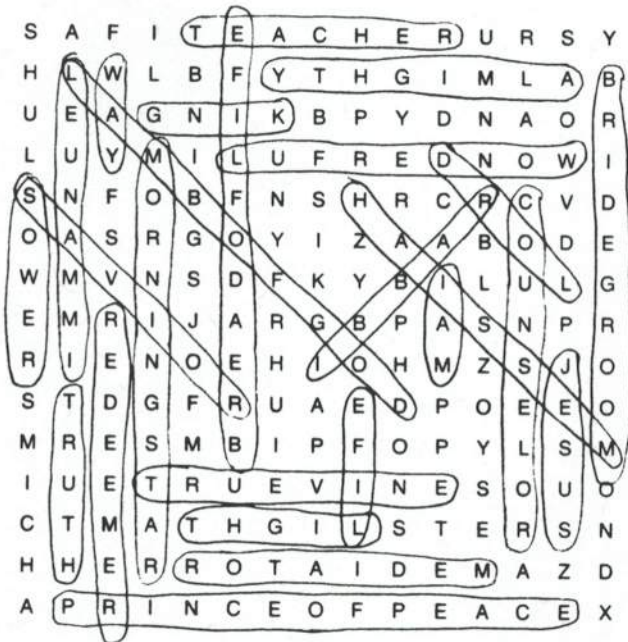
group compile a list of talents representative of their members. Then one talent is chosen from the list, and two short scenes are created to show the wise use of the talent and the unwise use of the talent. The group thus parallels "The Parable of the Talents" in a contemporary situation. For example:

*Wise*—A 6th grader is a very good student and loves school.

*Unwise*—She doesn't study much, since she'll do fine anyway. (15 min.)

9. *Homework*: Parent/pupil worksheet: "The Parable of the Talents."

Find the Names of Jesus (Answers)



Words or phrases used:

1. Teacher
2. Almighty
3. Bridegroom
4. Messiah
5. Jesus
6. Counselor
7. Prince of Peace
8. Mediator
9. Life
10. Light
11. True vine
12. Morning Star
13. Sower
14. Way
15. Truth
16. Redeemer
17. Immanuel
18. King
19. Wonderful
20. Rabbi
21. I Am
22. Savior
23. Lamb of God
24. Lord
25. Bread of Life

Notes \_\_\_\_\_